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## **Honduran President On Nicaraguan Troop Reduction, Offer To Broaden Amnesty For Contras**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Feb. 2 in Caracas, Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo told reporters that the Nicaraguan government's recent announcement of plans to reduce its standing army was a welcome development that would "lead to a political solution" of the conflict between the two nations. Azcona said that last week Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega presented to him a series of proposals, which included the discharge of several thousand soldiers, a review of political prisoners' cases, and an expansion of Nicaragua's amnesty program. The amnesty program for former contra fighters would reportedly include providing them with land and technical assistance. Ortega and Azcona met in Caracas on Feb. 1. Azcona said he told his Nicaraguan counterpart that his government welcomed a broadening of the amnesty program. An estimated 10,000 contra fighters, and several thousand of their supporters and family members, are currently encamped in Honduras. (Basic data from Notimex, Xinhua, 02/02/89)

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